# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# DEFENCE
# LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:71
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2006
CRASH OF AIRCRAFT AND HELICOPTERS
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**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

(a) the number of fighter aircraft and helicopters crashed during 2006, till-date;

(b) the reasons for such crashes;

(c) the loss of lives and properties suffered as a result thereof;

(d) whether each crash has been investigated; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon?

## Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 71 FOR ANSWER ON 27.7.2006

A total number of 3 fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force have crashed in three separate accidents during the period from 1st January 2006 up to 20th July, 2006. However, there have been no accidents of the aircraft of the Indian Army and the Indian Navy during this period. The details regarding the accidents are as follows:

| Sl. No. | Date/ Place of Accident | Fighter Aircraft | Helicopter accident | Cause of accident | Pilot/ Service Personnel killed | Fatal (Civilian) | Loss of Property (if any) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | 17.1.2006 Jamnagar | MiG-21 | - | Explosion of rocket during firing | - | - | |
| 2. | 21.3.2006 Barmer, Rajasthan | MiG-21 | - | Human Error (Mishandling of controls) | Two pilots | - | - |
| 3. | 8.6.2006 Jamnagar, Gujarat | MiG-29 | - | In-flight fire | - | - | - |

Besides the above fighter aircraft accidents, a Kiran Trainer aircraft also crashed on 18th March, 2006 at Bidar, in which two pilots were killed.

Each aircraft accident in the Defence Forces is investigated through a Court of Inquiry(CoI) and remedial actions according to the recommendations of the CoI are taken. Besides, acontinuous and multi-faceted effort is always underway in the Defence Forces to enhance and upgrade flight safety. Measures to enhance the quality of training to improve the skill levels,ability to exercise sound judgment and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued. Constant interaction with Original Equipment Manufactures (OEMs) both indigenous and foreign arealso maintained to overcome the technical defects of aircraft. Anti-bird measures are also undertaken.